

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

1 **Claim 12 (Currently amended):** A hearing device

2 comprising:

3 a digital signal processing unit having inputs and
4 outputs;

5 self-contained ~~peripheral~~ hardware units, peripheral
6 with respect to said digital signal processing unit and
7 operationally connected to said inputs and outputs of ~~the~~
8 said digital signal processing unit;

9 an identification unit in at least one of said
10 peripheral self-contained hardware units, the
11 identification unit having an output and containing
12 identification information ~~of said at least one peripheral~~
13 ~~self-contained~~ identifying said hardware unit;

14 a storage unit remote from said hardware unit
15 containing identification information ~~of~~ identifying more
16 than one hardware peripheral unit and having an output;

17 a comparing unit remote from said hardware unit and
18 having a first input, a second input, and an output, said
19 output of said identification unit being operationally

20 ~~connected~~ connect to the first input and said output of
21 said storage unit being operationally connected to the
22 second input[[]] and
23 a memory unit being operationally connected to the
24 output of said comparing unit for storing the current
25 configuration of said hearing device with respect to said
26 peripheral self-contained hardware unit[[s]].

1 **Claim 13 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein the output of said comparing unit is
3 operationally connected to a control input for the
4 operation of said digital signal processing unit.

1 **Claim 14 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein said at least one of said self-contained
3 peripheral hardware units and said digital signal
4 processing unit is operationally connected via at least one
5 data bus and interface unit.

1 **Claim 15 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, further comprising an output of said device which
3 is operationally connected to an output of said memory
4 unit.

1 **Claim 16 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 14, wherein said interface unit is one of a

3 three-wire interface unit and a two-wire interface unit.

1 **Claim 17 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, further comprising at least a second of said at
3 least one self-contained hardware peripheral units, and
4 wherein:

5 said one of said self-contained hardware peripheral
6 units treating audio signal components of said device and
7 being operationally connected to said digital processing
8 unit via a first data bus with first interface units; and
9 said second of said self-contained hardware peripheral
10 units treating control signals of said hearing device and
11 being operationally connected with said digital signal
12 processing unit via a second data bus and second interface
13 units.

1 **Claim 18 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein said at least one peripheral
3 self-contained hardware unit treats audio signal components
4 of said hearing device and is operationally connected to
5 said digital signal processing unit via a data bus with at
6 least three-wire interface units.

1 **Claim 19 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein said at least one hardware peripheral
3 self-contained hardware unit treats control signals of said

4 hearing device and is operationally connected to said
5 digital signal processing unit via a data bus with two-wire
6 interface units.

1 **Claim 20 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 18, wherein said three-wire interface units are I²S
3 units.

1 **Claim 21 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 19, wherein said second interface units are I²C units.

1 **Claim 22 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 12, wherein said one self-contained hardware
3 peripheral unit is one of a sensor, an actuator, a
4 transceiver, a manually operable selection switch unit, and
5 a potentiometer.

1 **Claim 23 (Previously presented):** The device of
2 claim 15, wherein said output of said device is an output
3 of a transceiver.

1 **Claim 24 (Currently amended):** A method for
2 manufacturing a hearing device, comprising the steps of:
3 providing a digital signal processing unit;
4 providing at least one self-contained peripheral

5 hardware unit;
6 operationally connecting said peripheral
7 self-contained hardware unit to said digital signal
8 processing unit; and
9 automatically identifying said peripheral
10 self-contained hardware unit; and
11 storing the current hardware configuration of the
12 hearing aid device with respect to said peripheral units.

1 **Claim 25 (Previously presented):** The method of
2 claim 24, further comprising a step of selecting an
3 operational mode of said signal processing unit as a
4 function of said current hardware configuration.

1 **Claim 26 (Previously presented):** The method of
2 claim 24, further comprising a step of barring an operation
3 of said digital signal processing unit which does not
4 conform with said current hardware configuration.

1 **Claim 27 (Previously presented):** The method of
2 claim 24, further comprising a step of providing
3 interpretation of signals towards and/or from said digital
4 signal processing unit as a function of said current
5 hardware configuration.